

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SECTO 04108 181455Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
-----181457Z 062921 /50
Z 181417Z MAY 77
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 4108

EXDIS

FOR ACTING SECRETARY FROM THE SECRETARY

1. THERE IS INTENSE INTEREST IN THE PRESS CORPS HERE, AND I ASSUME ALSO IN WASHINGTON, IN OUR REACTION TO THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS RESULTS. QUESTIONS ARE FOCUSING IN PARTICULAR ON WHAT THE MAKE-UP OF THE NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT MAY BE, SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ELECTION RESULTS FOR OUR PEACE EFFORTS, AND WHETHER USG SHARES RESPONSIBILITY FOR LABOR LOSSES AND LIKUD GAINS.

2. WE ARE TAKING THE POSITION WITH THE PRESS, AND DEPARTMENT OFFICERS SHOULD DO THE SAME, THAT IT IS FUTILE TO SPECULATE OR ENGAGE IN POST-MORTEMS AT THIS STAGE. WE SHOULD DECLINE ON BACKGROUND OR OTHERWISE TO GIVE ANY INTERPRETATION OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ELECTION RESULTS OR TO PREDICT WHAT THE MAKE-UP OF THE NEXT ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WILL BE. IT IS IMPORTANT TO ADHERE CLOSELY TO THIS NO COMMENT LINE, BOTH BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY IMponderables IN THE ISRAELI POLITICAL PROCESS THAT ANY SPECULATIONS IS LIKELY TO BE WIDE OF THE MARK AND BECAUSE ANYTHING WE SAY CAN ITSELF BECOME AN ISSUE DOMESTICALLY IN ISRAEL.

3. FOR THE IMMEDIATE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, AT LEAST, OUR PUBLIC POSTURE SHOULD BE THAT WE RECOGNIZE ISRAEL WILL NEED SOME TIME TO PUT A GOVERNMENT TOGETHER AND THAT, ONCE
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THAT HAPPENS, WE WILL WANT TO GET ON WITH OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH ISRAEL ABOUT HOW TO MOVE THE PEACE PROCESS FORWARD. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECTO, ELECTION RESULTS, GOVERNMENT REFORM, PRESS RELEASES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SECTO04108
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770176-1308
Format: TEL
From: SECRETARY GENEVA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770543/aaaablfp.tel
Line Count: 58
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cbc8e390-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2468951
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS INTERESTS IN US GOVERNMENT REACTIONS TO ISRAELI ELECTION RESULTS
TAGS: SOPN, PINT, PGOV, IS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cbc8e390-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009